

Synopsis

Anticipation, as one of the essential techniques for interpreting between languages with great differences in grammatical structures, has not been given due importance in SI study. In this thesis, in an effort to explore new ways of improving simultaneous interpreters' strategic competence, the author makes a comprehensive study of anticipation as a strategy in SI.

This thesis is composed of four chapters, excluding an introduction and a conclusion.

In the introduction, the definition of anticipation is put forward and its importance in SI is emphasized. A brief review of the development of the study of anticipation is also provided.

Chapter One explores the prevailing anticipatory phenomena in human cognition and communication. In this chapter the author points out that anticipation is an innate characteristic of both human cognition and communication. Human cognition is characterized by traits that constitute a basis for anticipation mechanism. The results of pragmatic research reveal communication to be an ostensive-inferential process. The understanding of these two points serves as the starting point of the research on anticipation in SI.

Chapter Two examines SI and SI process during which anticipation strategy is utilized. After having analyzed the characteristics of SI and the difficulties involved in SI process, the author points out that anticipation is an effective

strategy for solving problems in SI.

Chapter Three provides a systematic analysis on anticipation strategy in SI. The author explores the main forms of two types of anticipation in SI and examines the mechanism which governs it.

Chapter Four is devoted to the discussion of the ways of improving interpreters' anticipation ability and the remedial measures required for failed cases. This chapter begins with a discussion on the two basic requirements on simultaneous interpreters, and then the ways to improve interpreters' professional competence in these two aspects are discussed one by one. In the end, some preventive and remedial measures are suggested.

Finally, it is concluded that anticipation, as one of the most effective and frequently used strategy, should be an important goal in the training of simultaneous interpreters.

Key Words: Simultaneous Interpreting (SI); Anticipation; Strategy.

摘 要

预测是在语法结构差异较大的语言之间进行同声传译时应该使用的基本策略技巧之一。它的重要性人所共知，却在长期以来的同声传译研究中未得到应有的重视。在本文中，作者对于同声传译的预测策略作了较为全面系统的研究，以期探索出一条提高同声传译译员专门策略能力的新途径。

本文全文由一个导言，四章及结语部分组成。

导言部分阐明了预测的定义及同声传译中预测策略的重要性，并就该领域的研究现状作了简单回顾。

在第一章中，作者探讨了人类认知和交际活动中普遍存在的预测现象，并指出预测是人类认知和交际行为的内在特征。人类认知的预测特性是预测机制运作的基础，而语用学研究表明交际活动是一个明示 - 推理的过程。基于这两点的认识构成了对同声传译中的预测进行策略性研究的理论基础。

第二章着重考察了同声传译，同声传译过程及该过程中运用预测策略的必要性。在对同声传译的特点和难点进行剖析之后，作者指出预测是解决同声传译中诸问题和难题的有效策略。

在第三章中，作者对于同传预测策略进行了系统化分析，并对两种主要预测类型的各主要形式及同传中的预测机制进行了深入的研究。

第四章着重讨论了提高译员预测能力的具体方法及防止预测策略运用失败的预防和补救措施。本章从对同传译员的两项基本素质要求的讨论入手，分别提出了提高这两项职业素质的具体途径与方法。最后，作者对于预测策略失败的预防和补救措施进行了讨论，并提出相应的建议。

关键词：同声传译；预测；策略

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Anticipation is the most essential psycholinguistic factor explaining the phenomenon of simultaneity in Simultaneous Interpreting.

--Chernov, 1996.

Introduction

As we know, SI is a multi-task processing activity, in which many complicated cognitive processes work in parallel. In SI, interpreters are constantly under the great pressure from time constraints and the information density. In addition, many language pairs in SI differ in grammatical order, which is mainly represented by the differences in the position of verbs. To interpret between such language pairs thus causes great difficulties for interpreters, as while the verb in the SL comes at the end of the sentence, it is needed early in the TL, just as in Chinese-English/French or Japanese-English/French interpreting. This disparity in surface structures constitutes one of the main difficulties in SI and frequently results in deterioration of interpreters' performance.

Anticipation, which in communication is defined as the ability to predict downstream structure or meaning, is referred to in SI as a useful strategy with which interpreters could predict or interpret source text units before they are actually uttered. Anticipation is thus regarded as a strategy typically used for countering Verb-last or Head-noun-last structures, which could relieve processing load on interpreters considerably and is thus conducive to a better interpreting performance.

Considering the inherent characteristics of simultaneity, information density and grammatical difficulty in SI, some researchers now believe that without a good command of anticipation strategy, it is hard for interpreters to do a good job in SI. They therefore call for an extensive exploration on the topic and suggest the training of anticipation strategy be an indispensable part of interpreters' training course. The point is: if interpreters always wait till the end of the sentence to begin their interpreting, there is no SI; or, even if they do force along with their interpreting, it is sure to be broken and stammering which is difficult to understand.

But the fact is that anticipation, as one of the most important and commonly used strategies in SI, has barely been studied systematically although its importance is generally acknowledged in literature. The first and only systematic research on anticipation — by Mattern — has remained unpublished, although parts of it have been commented on by Wilss (1978). Lederer (1980, 1981) offers a qualitative analysis of anticipation in SI and comments on a number of cases but does not go further.

In this thesis, in an effort to provide some observations in training and strengthening interpreters' ability in utilizing anticipation strategy, the author explores the strategy systematically from many perspectives and recommends some exercises for relevant training courses. As the study on this topic is gaining wider recognition, debates and discussions are invited.

Chapter One Anticipation: A Common Nature of Human Cognition and Communication

1. Anticipation

In our daily life, it's common for us to predict or anticipate the happening, the likelihood of happening, or the possible trend of development of events in some degree. Predictive behaviors are ubiquitous and can be noticed in nearly every aspect of our life: when switching on TV, we anticipate that it will wake up and deliver some colorful moving pictures; when pressing a door handle, we anticipate that the door should be pushed open; beautiful flowers are expected to grow when we put seed into soil. Almost all of these anticipatory behaviors are conducted automatically and without being even noticed. But how can we achieve this anyway and what is the mental mechanism behind it? We should now ask ourselves. The following sections will be contributed to the discussion of these questions.

1.1 Innate & Acquired Anticipatory Ability

The results of kidology research show that babies as young as three months have the ability of anticipation. They cry to get feed or attention from their parents. This shows that they can anticipate the getting of food, or coming of their parents with the conduct of the act of crying. From this we can conclude that this crude

anticipatory act is an instinct. During the process of growing up, as each individual's world knowledge and subject knowledge in certain fields accumulate, his anticipation of general events becomes more instant, accurate and automatic. Some people with rich world experiences and extended knowledge could make use of this ability consciously when analyzing or solving problems. This is what we usually call far-sightedness.

From this we can see that human thinking system has a first innate and crude but then acquired and improved ability of anticipation. It develops with the extension and accumulation of individuals' knowledge and experiences. Strengthened and modified by the feedback from repeatedly occurred events or results, anticipatory behaviors could be more and more automatic and finally become a conditioned reflex. The training of this ability in some professionals thus is quite possible. This constitutes the theoretic foundation of this essay.

1.2 A General Definition of Anticipation

In Webster's 1913 dictionary, 'anticipation' is defined as:

- a. The act of *anticipating*, taking up, placing, or *considering* something *beforehand* or before the proper time in natural order;
- b. *Previous* view or impression of what is to happen; *instinctive prevision*; *foretaste*; *antepast*;
- c. Hasty notion; *intuitive* preconception.

and in the WordNet Dictionary, it is:

- a. The act of *predicting* (as by reasoning about the future);

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